

Paul Iogolevitch, the Giant Killer

THE YOUNG RUSSIAN CORPORAL is an exciting tale of the war from the viewpoint of a young Russian lad. The facts, which are implicitly vouched for by an old and reputable publisher, have been arranged and edited (presumably written on the basis of a personal narrative) by Mr. Godfrey M. Lebar. The story comes from Paul Iogolevitch, a boy who at the age of 12 went to war and for two years experienced a series of adventures that would do credit to the oldest veteran.

How little Paul was sent out to reconnoitre, how he penetrated the German lines and brought back news of vital importance to the Russians, how he killed and captured Germans—it is all an entertaining story. While the writer of these lines is convinced that in the main the narrative is true, he cannot pass over without protest some of the "miraculous" feats of the lad of 13.

In any event the book is entertaining, though it does paint war as a series of heroic adventures. *The Young Russian Corporal* is a far cry from *Barbusse*, but perhaps as a picture of war seen through youthful eyes it has its place.

THE YOUNG RUSSIAN CORPORAL. By PAUL IOGOLEVITCH. Harper & Brothers.

IMPRESSIONS of THEODORE ROOSEVELT



By
LAWRENCE F. ABBOTT
(Editor of "The Outlook")

THE author had better opportunities than any other person to study "T. R." at close range. Here are eight features to be found in no other Roosevelt "biography."

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Masefield as M.F.H.: View Halloo—Poor Reynard!

JOHN MASEFIELD'S new book, *Reynard the Fox, or The Ghost Heath Inn*, is made up of the realism, both minute and sweeping, of this realistic master of the modern English minor epic. The poem consists of a large group of portraits—commoners, nobles, old chivalry and young beauty and gallantry, with hounds and horses, and in the foreground the piteous little quarry.

The meet was at "The Cock and Rye Of Charles and Martha Enderby," a gray, 300-year-old inn, with a pulsating crowd around it the morning the hunt assembles:

To fill that quiet width of road
As full of men as Framilode
Is full of sea when tide comes in.

Stables alive with din; spangled cocks crowing; maids lustily at work; grooms in the yard shaving at glasses propped on jutting bricks; people and things innumerable are painted to the life. We hear all manner of speech and sounds, even the slow satisfying gulps of the horses as they tugged their feed. Natural humor is not lacking in such strokes as those which set forth "a pony like a feather bed on four short sticks" and the little girl riding astride who Watched everything with eyes that glowed With glory in the horse she rode.

Now and then there are touches of Masefield pathos, though the bustling scene is one of cheer to any beholder not in sympathy with the fox. In these sketches the poet shows afresh his keen understanding of people good and bad, his fine responsiveness to grace and beauty. But it is the animals over whom he gloats, and theirs is the world in which he seems most at home. From the way he garnishes the fox's ancestral lair, for instance, you might suppose he had dwelt in one himself:

Under the beech roots snugly earthed,
With a roof of flint and a floor of chalk
And ten bitten hens' heads each on its stalk,
Some rabbits' paws, some fur from scuts,
A badger's corpse and a smell of guts.

The night before the run Reynard sets out to visit his wife somewhere out by the Ghost Heath Stubs. Smelling his way back home the next forenoon he scents the supreme peril of a fox's life.

He still had time to get fit to run:
He could outlast horse and outrace hound,
But men were devils from Lobs's Pound.

He trotted down with his nose intent
For a fox's line to break the scent.
It was only fair (he being the stranger)
That a native fox should have the danger.

Mr. Masefield follows the chase with

His Own Home: Ring

EVERY American humorist writes a piece about a house. Its appearance is a sign that he has been doing well. Ring Lardner in *Own Your Own Home* is only following in the footsteps of Stockton, Eugene Field, poor Guy Wetmore Carryl, Irvin S. Cobb and the rest of the boys. Every house builder has a set number of tragedies which may be written into comedies. Mr. Lardner, whose unree-fined Fred A. Gross tells the story, harries through the homebuilding episodes in order to get down to social life in the suburbs of Chicago. The reader concludes that as a next door neighbor Jack Keefe would be preferable to Detective Gross.

OWN YOUR OWN HOME. By RING W. LARDNER. Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill Company.

REVIEWING new books on *Hamlet* must be dreadful. But vindictiveness is not to be excused. "C. H. H." says his say about such a book in a London newspaper, and stops on, "There is an oversight, unusual in (the author) on page 88"—leaving every one, including the hapless author, in an agony of hopeless speculation.

THE fifth volume of Conan Doyle's history of *The British Campaign in France and Flanders* is to contain an extensive argument in defence of Gen. Gough, under whose command the British Fifth Army broke and let the Germans in the first stage of the final offensive gain what so nearly amounted to a decisive advantage.

convincing familiarity, but we are sure that he must some time have been the fox. He quivers, not to the jolly sport of hounds and huntsmen, but to the leaping death behind, the terror of the realization that

All the way to that blinding end
He would meet with men and have none
his friend.

Men to holloa and men to run him,
With stones to stagger and yells to stun
him, men to lead him, with whips
to beat him,
Teeth to mangle and mouths to eat him.

Only a vigorous dramatist could make of 166 pages of rhymed couplets describing a fox run a tale of splendid adventure. The imaginative genius and practised art of Masefield accomplish it easily. His unusually and increasingly rich vocabulary is expanded with words at least obsolescent—sometimes a trick of poetic affectation but here a sound device to give color to swift expression. C. M. G.

REYNARD THE FOX, OR THE GHOST HEATH INN. By JOHN MASEFIELD. The Macmillan Company.

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